

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising  
a tread portion,  
a pair of sidewall portions, and  
a pair of bead portions, each said bead portion having a bottom face and an axially  
outer side face which contact with a bead seat and a flange of a wheel rim, respectively,  
when the tire is mounted on the wheel rim,

said flange having a radially inner flat portion substantially parallel with an  
equatorial plane of the tire and a radially outer curved portion extending radially  
outwards from the radially outer end of said radially inner flat portion while inclining  
axially outwards,

in a meridian section of the tire, said axially outer side face comprising a radially  
inner part ~~for contacting with a~~ accommodated to said radially inner flat portion of the  
rim flange, and a radially outer part ~~for contacting with a~~ accommodated to said radially  
outer curved portion of the rim flange, wherein

said axially outer side face is provided with a profile such that, when a bead width  
wa of the tire is adjusted to a rim width wr of the wheel rim without being mounted on  
the wheel rim, the radially inner part is a substantially straight line parallel with the  
equatorial plane of the tire, and the radially outer part is (A) a substantially straight line  
or (B) a convex line or (C) a ~~curved~~ concave line having a radius of curvature of not less  
than 300 mm, and

the radially outer part extends radially outwards from the radially outer end of the radially inner part while inclining axially outwards.

2. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the inclination angle ( $\theta$ ) of the radially outer part at the radially inner end thereof is in a range of from 10 to 20 degrees with respect to the tire equatorial plane.

3. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, the tire comprises a carcass extending between the bead portions, and wherein the height ( $h_b$ ) of the radially outer end of the radially outer part is in a range of 0.35 to 0.45 times the height  $H$  of the maximum section width position of  $[[a]]$  the carcass under the normally inflated unloaded condition of the tire.

4. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the height ( $h_b$ ) of the radially outer end of the radially outer part is more than the height of the rim flange.

5. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the tire comprises a carcass extending between the bead portion, and the height ( $h_a$ ) of the radially inner end of the radially outer part is in a range of from 0.15 to 0.25 times the height  $H$  of the maximum section width position of  $[[a]]$  the carcass under the normally inflated unloaded condition of the tire.

6. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the height (ha) of the radially inner end of the radially outer part is in a range of from 0.6 to 1.2 times a height hc, wherein the height hc is a height at which the radially outer curved portion of the rim flange meets the radially inner flat portion of the rim flange.

7. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 6, wherein the height hc is 9 mm.

8. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the tire aspect ratio is not more than 55%.